



News Release

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State receives grant for advanced manufacturing training, education

INDIANAPOLIS (October 20, 2006) -- Indiana's efforts to prepare Hoosiers for new jobs in its growing advanced manufacturing sector are gaining even more momentum. The U.S. Department of Labor has awarded Indiana with a \$1.8 million three-year U.S. Department of Labor grant that will provide entry level and advanced training to 550 advanced manufacturing workers.

The grant, awarded to Ivy Tech Community College for a partnership between Ivy Tech and Purdue University, targets transportation-related advanced manufacturing and will provide training for 550 workers in seven cities: Columbus, Lafayette, Richmond, Terre Haute, Madison, Evansville, and Indianapolis. It will also be used to develop a new statewide advanced manufacturing curriculum to help ensure a steady supply of trained workers.

"Just last week when we announced the new Cummins plant in Columbus, we talked about the importance of investing in the education and training of our workforce. With those new jobs and others on the way at Honda, Toyota and throughout Indiana, this grant will boost our preparation efforts," said Governor Mitch Daniels.

While the initial focus of the grant targets the transportation sector, the long-term goal of the partnership is aimed at a broad range of industries. The two institutions will build workforce capacity in three areas: short-term pre-foundation skills training, foundational training utilizing the Manufacturing Skills Standards Council curriculum (MSSC), and technical, more specialized skills.

"This program is coming at a critical time in the state's continued economic expansion. It will expand our pool of skilled workers, enhance the abilities of our existing workforce, and strengthen the entire advanced manufacturing sector," said Andrew J. Penca, commissioner of the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. "Long term, it will ensure we have a robust pipeline of skilled workers in the area of advanced manufacturing."

"We are honored by the investment that the U.S. Department of Labor has made in Ivy Tech Community College and the state of Indiana," said Carol D'Amico, executive vice president of Ivy Tech Community College. "Higher education is such a key component in preparing our workforce and support such as this will allow us to address manufacturing needs quickly and effectively. Success in manufacturing is key to the state of Indiana,

and providing a well-trained workforce in this industry is key to Ivy Tech. In addition to providing training that leads to good-paying jobs, our partnership with Purdue will allow students to continue their education and continue to increase their earnings”

“The Purdue programs will be in the areas of digital manufacturing, and product life cycle analysis and will pilot a program providing asynchronous courses in advanced manufacturing technology," said Victor L. Lechtenberg, Vice Provost for Engagement.

The grant will build on other state and federal workforce development efforts underway, such as the Strategic Skills Initiative, a statewide effort administered by the Department of Workforce Development that addresses critical job and skills shortages, and a \$15 million federal WIRED (Workforce Investment Regional Economic Development) grant awarded to north central Indiana that encourages regional cooperation in economic and workforce development. Purdue University is the WIRED project administrator. The Strategic Skills Initiative earlier this year distributed \$14.9 million in grants to eleven regional consortia to address job and skills shortages. The state is also providing up to \$2 million through the Strategic Skills Initiative to grow awareness and interest in advanced manufacturing careers.